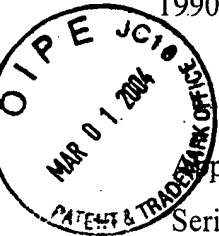


1990.65934

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

2651
#6
3.9.04

Applicant: Kazuhito Ichihara
Serial No.: 10/045,738
Conf. No.: 9722
Filed: 10/29/2001
For: INFORMATION RECORDING &
REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND
METHOD AND SIGNAL DECODING
CIRCUIT
Art Unit: 2651
Examiner: Faber, Alan

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

25 Feb 04
Date Registration No. 29,367
Attorney for Applicant(s)

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

MAR 02 2004

Technology Center 2000

Dear Sir:

In response to the election requirement mailed February 3, 2004, applicants elect the species of Figs. 13-15, with traverse. Claims 1-22, 34-55 and 67-88 read on the elected species.

The basis for traversal is that examination of both species would not place an undue burden on the examiner. A search for one species would largely overlap with a search for the other species. Accordingly, withdrawal of the election requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By

Patrick G. Burns
Registration No. 29,367

February 25, 2004

300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312.360.0080
Facsimile: 312.360.9315
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